

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Santa Fe National Forest



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Santa Fe National Forest to enter Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Friday

(**SANTA FE, NM**)—Beginning Friday, May 20 at 8:00 a.m. the Santa Fe National Forest will enter Stage 1 Fire Restrictions due to severe drought conditions and increasing fire danger. Restrictions will not apply to the Chama River Canyon Wilderness, Dome Wilderness, Pecos Wilderness and San Pedro Parks Wilderness.

First level (Stage 1) restrictions limit campfires to Forest Service designated camp and picnic grounds where grills and fire rings are provided. Smoking is permitted only in vehicles or buildings, in developed recreation sites, or in areas cleared at least three feet in diameter of all flammable material. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of fire work or other pyrotechnic device is also prohibited.

Gas and propane stoves, lanterns or heating devices are permitted providing such devices meet the fire underwriter's specifications for safety.

Violation of these restrictions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations and/or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months.

For more information regarding forest recreation opportunities and fire restrictions, please contact the Santa Fe National Forest at (505) 438-5300, or visit us online at www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe.

For general information regarding ongoing fire activity on the Santa Fe National Forest please call 1-877-971-3473, or visit www.nmfireinfo.com.

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NOTE TO MEDIA:

*Santa Fe National Forest includes National Forest System lands near Jemez, Cuba, Coyote, Gallina, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Española, Pecos, Las Vegas and Mora.

There are 4 different stages (levels) of restriction/closures in response to fire risk:

Stage I (1st Level)—No smoking outside of vehicles, or buildings. No open campfires outside of developed sites. No fireworks.

Stage II (2nd Level)—In addition to Stage I, adds prohibitions for explosives, chainsaw or other internal combustion engines (possibly during certain hours), welding, and using a motor vehicle off forest development roads; further restricts use of campfires.

Stage III (3rd Level)—The closure of specific areas of the Forest (as detailed in the Closure Order)

Stage IV (4th Level)—Full forest closures (as detailed in the Closure Order)